The House then adjourned at twenty-nine minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

World Bank's assessment of projects under DPIP in Madhya Pradesh

†*442. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the World Bank has inspected and assessed the ongoing projects to uplift the standard of living of the villagers of backward districts of Madhya Pradesh under District Poverty Initiatives Programme (DPIP) and World Bank has appreciated the success of the projects;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering to seek more assistance from the World Bank for extending the projects in Madhya Pradesh and in other states; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Government has noted the assessment of the World Bank that Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project (MP-DPIP) is moving in the right direction of achieving the development objectives. However, this project's utilization of the World Bank assistance needs to be accelerated by the State Government as only 40.6% of the credit has been utilised till March, 2005.

(c) and (d) In the Country Strategy for India (CAS) of the World Bank for the period 2005-08, six Rural Livelihood projects have been identified, covering the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. One State is yet to be identified.

Guidelines on use of Helicopters by civilians/VVIPS

*443. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to prepare guidelines for the choppers to be used by civilians specially VVIPs in the light of recent tragic accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has already laid down regulations for safe helicopter operations in the form of "Civil Aviation Requirements (CARS)", which are in accordance with 'International Standards' stipulated by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). In addition, DGCA has issued instructions in September 1996 for use of privately owned/State Government aircraft by Chief Ministers/Ministers, high dignitaries and SPG Protectees.

Promotion of tourism in J & K

*444. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and foreign tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir during last three calendar years ending with 2004;

(b) whether Government have any plan to promote and safeguard tourism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) As per the information received from the State of Jammu & Kashmir, number of Domestic and Foreign tourists who visited the State in the last three years is as follows:

(Figures in lakhs)

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
2002	45.71	0.08	45.79
2003	57.49	0.24	57.73
2004	68.81	0.41	69.22

(b) and (c) It is the endeavour of both the Central and State Government to promote tourism in the State of J & K. A special package for upgrading infrastructure through financial assistance to the service providers has